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16 November 1961

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Pilot Equipment

1. A meeting was held on 12 November between representatives from Lockheed, Firewel, Firewel/David Clark, and [] to discuss the status of the pilot equipment.

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2. Reports submitted indicate that the delivery of parachutes and parachute hardware is on schedule, the dual oxygen system has passed qual tests, pressure suit production is as planned, and ground support equipment is ready for delivery to the site.

3. [] reported that dummy drops would commence at El Centro on 4 December and following 50 successful tests, live drops would be made. In view of Lockheed's 30 January flight testing date, the drop program will receive priority. Weather permitting, the dummy drop tests should be completed prior to 1 January.

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4. Four problem areas are under investigation:

(1) Two recent failures of the suit pressure sealing zipper requires investigation but no delays should occur as zippers can be replaced in four days.

(2) Lockheed's and Firewel's figures on flight time capabilities of the oxygen system do not agree. Firewel's 3 1/2 hours compared to Lockheed's 12 hours. Lockheed will report on their findings after review.

(3) Firewel's subcontractor for the oxygen bottles has decided not to accept the contract and Firewel is scouring the market for a substitute. OPD will be kept informed of progress in finding another vendor.

(4) The refit parachute ^{pressure activators} ~~liners~~ have not been qual tested at Wright Field. Ad Martin will deliver the hardware to Wright Field next week.

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Deputy Chief, Development Branch
016-20/2

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